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ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-01
NSAE-00 EAP-00 PA-01 INRE-00 ACDA-12 USIE-00 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5759
AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MASS, SY, US
SUBJECT: SYRIAN CHARGES AGAINST ALLEGED SHULTZ
- COMMENT IN BEIJING

1. CONFIDENTIAL = ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: A SYRIAN EDITORIAL APPEARING IN "TISHREEN" NEWSPAPER, JULY 17 CHARGES SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ WITH SINGLING SYRIA OUT AS THE ONLY MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRY WHICH SHOULD NOT RECEIVE ARMS FROM CHINA, PARAPHRASING THE SECRETARY AS SAYING IN A BEIJING SPEECH "YES TO ARMING ANY PARTY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, EXCEPT SYRIA." (THE EDITORIAL THEN CONTINUES TO LAMBAST THE U.S. ROLE IN THE REGION, CHARGING THAT THE U.S. IS HIGHLY PARTISAN, "SHOWERING ARMS UPON THE ZIONIST CAMP" WHILE DOING EVERYTHING TO THWART ARAB EFFORTS TO ATTAIN A STRATEGIC BALANCE.)

3. THE SECRETARY'S JULY 15 PRESS CONFERENCE CONTAINS A COMMENT THAT "IT IS VERY UNDESIRABLE TO HAVE BALLISTIC MISSILE TECHNOLOGY OR BALLISTIC MISSILES AS SUCH SPREADING AROUND (THE MIDDLE EAST)." THE QUESTION TO WHICH

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SECRETARY RECORDED MENTIONED CYTA, AS WELL AS

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OTHER REGIONAL POWERS, BUT THE SECRETARY MADE NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF SYRIA IN HIS RESPONSE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE IF ANY OF THE SECRETARY'S PUBLIC REMARKS WHILE IN CHINA CONTAIN COMMENTS WHICH IN ANY WAY SUBSTANTIATE THE SYRIAN VERSION.

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